5 April 1967

The Editor
The Oakland Tribune
Oakland, California

Dear Sir,

The column by Robert S. Allen and Paul Scott ("CIA Subsidy Probe To Include Refugee Aid") which appeared in your February 24, 1967 issue has just come to my attention.

In this article, the authors refer to a CIA publication project, "handled through a publishing firm," consisting of a comprehensive index dealing with the Warren Commission's inquiry into the assassination of President Kennedy. They state that "for writers and investigators doing research on the assassination or the Warren Commission's probe of it, the index is the only accurate guide available, although those using it have no knowledge of the CIA's role in its preparation."

My Subject Index to the Warren Report and Hearings and Exhibits was published in March 1966 by The Scarecrow Press, New York and London, and is being widely used by researchers and critics of the Warren Report in various parts of this country and in Europe. This Subject Index was compiled by me as a completely independent project during my research on the Warren Report; it was published by The Scarecrow Press under normal commercial arrangements. The CIA was in no way whatever involved in the preparation or publication of my Index, nor any other Governmental or private agency or organization of any type or description.

To the best of my knowledge, my Index is the only such work which has been published and the only one in use by students of the Warren Report. I have made special inquiries upon reading the column by Allen and Scott which confirmed my belief that there is no other index in published form or in general use.

Although the description of the contents of the alleged CIA-sponsored index does not correspond exactly with the contents of my Subject Index, readers of the column may well infer that my Index, which is the only such published work, is the one to which the column refers and that it is tainted by CIA clandestine sponsorship or financial backing--an inference which is absolutely unfounded, unjustified, and damaging to my reputation and that of The Scarecrow Press. For these reasons, I earnestly request you as well as Messrs. Allen and Scott to take steps, as soon as possible, to rectify this unfortunate and unfair implication, which no doubt was unintentional but which compromises my work and my good name--explicitly, to issue a clarification specifying that the CIA-sponsored "index" is entirely unrelated to my Subject Index published by The Scarecrow Press.

Yours very sincerely,

Sylvia Meagher

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cc: J.Lobenthal, Attorney
Mr. A. Daub, The Scarecrow Press
Mr. Richard Helms, Director of the CIA, et al.